Pakistan's offer to China to establish reconnaissance Centre at Makrana Coast

†933. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards newsitem published in Nav Bharat Times dated 30th June, 2002 captioned "Pakistan Cheen se Bharat ki Nigrani karwana chahta hai" wherein Pakistani leaders have made an offer to China to establish reconnaissance centre at Makrana coast;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) China has been involved in the Phase I of the Gwadar deep sea port project in Pakistan. Full capabilities in the context of the deep sea port have not yet been developed.

Reconstruction of Buddha's Idols

†934. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that "Museum of World Religions" of Taiwan has decided to reconstruct the idols of Buddha of Bamiyan which were destroyed by Taliban ruler of Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government are considering to contribute in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen a press report stating that a Taiwanese NGO has offered funds for reconstruction of the two Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.